

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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The SHOC meets bi-monthly to discuss important issues related to species and/or their habitat that may impact operation in the Permian Basin. The SHOC submits the following Committee Report detailing significant issues that are being followed and worked by SHOC member Companies.

This quarter, the SHOC met on August 9, 2023. Members of the SHOC have also been engaged in supporting PBPA's lawsuit against the listing of the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) and on comments against the proposed listing of the dunes sagebrush lizard (DSL). During our August meeting the SHOC discussed the following issues:

- Update on LPC lawsuit and conservation efforts, including post listing conservation mechanisms for oil and gas development. An update was also given on the PBPA/WAFWA Range wide Research Initiative to evaluate conservation genomics for the LPC and update geospatial resources for LPC habitat.
- Discussion of the proposed rule to list the DSL. At this meeting it was determined that instead of constructing a working group, the entire SHOC would be involved and apprised of updates regarding PBPA's commenting efforts on this proposed listing. Conservation mechanisms for oil and gas development were also discussed.
- Updates were also given on a Special Status Plant Species (SSPS) report in New Mexico, updates on certain bat species which could impact oil and gas operations, and a discussion of the decision in the Sackett case regarding Waters of the United States (WOTUS).